

POLITICS 351: THE POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT (PRECEPT)

Princeton University

Spring 2023

Instructor:	Atul Kohli	Preceptor:	Greg Amusu
Email:	kohli@princeton.edu	Email:	gamusu@princeton.edu
Time:	Th 12:30 – 1:20pm Th 1:30 – 2:20pm	Location:	Fine Hall 801

Course Page: <https://princeton.instructure.com/courses/10340>

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30 – 3:30 pm (Tiger Tea Room – Firestone), or by appointment.

Course Description: The goal of this course is to introduce students to the state’s role in promoting economic growth and distribution in the developing world. Accordingly, this course will pay particular attention to the *political* underpinnings of development taking place at the national level. Unlike ECO 351, ECO 359, and other courses on economic development this course does not spend time on canonical growth models. Nor does it focus on the decisions and investments made by individual households and firms seeking in the developing world. Borrowing the words of former chief economists of the World Bank and the African Development Bank, this course focuses on the “delicate but essential role of the state, which is always necessary, if not to ignite new industries, at least to help them become viable competitive segments of the economy, especially in an increasingly globalized world where cooperation and connection to networks are integral elements of success” (Lin and Monga 2017). Each week we will meet for 50 minutes to solidify concepts covered in lecture and to discuss the assigned readings.

Precept Grading Policy: Active precept engagement is 20% of your total course grade. The breakdown of your precept grade is as follows:

- general attendance and contribution (40%);
- reading guide assignment (30%);
- weekly 3-2-1 google form submission (30%)

Reading Guide: Regular active engagement with the readings is a critical component of success in this course. As part of your final precept grade, you are expected to complete a reading guide and lead discussion on a selection of readings (**excluding *Project Syndicate* readings**). The purpose of this assignment is two-fold. First, it guarantees that everyone in the course will develop deep knowledge of one of the cases or topics we cover this semester. Second, it will produce a compendium of reference material for the second and final take-home examinations. Reading guides must cover two articles or two book chapters (at least 60 pages) of material and should be formatted as a series of questions (12 to 15 total) to guide us through the reading. Two students may submit reading guides and co-lead discussion in a given week; however, the assigned readings in your guides cannot be the same. An example can be found on the course Canvas page. **Please note that reading guides are due the Friday before precept so that they can be consulted while completing the assigned reading.** The first reading guides will be prior to Precept 4. The sign up sheet for reading guides is linked [here](#).

Weekly 3-2-1 Submission: Each week, 24 hours before precept, a “3-2-1” submission will be collected via Google Forms. The submission is a brief accountability exercise in which you will submit three (3) interesting ideas or insights from the reading; two (2) discussion questions for precept; and one (1) aspect of the reading or lecture that you are confused about. You do not need to have completed **all** of the readings prior to completing your 3-2-1 submission; however, completing as much reading as possible before submitting will benefit your learning. The first weekly 3-2-1 submission is 24 hours prior to Precept 3 (February 23). The form for 3-2-1 submissions is linked [here](#).

Precept Readings: *Project Syndicate*

Each week I will assign a small number (usually 2 or 3) of **short** articles from *Project Syndicate*. Described as “the world’s smartest op-ed page,” *Project Syndicate* is a Prague-based international media organization that syndicates opinion editorials from leading thinkers on a wide range of global topics. Contributors to *Project Syndicate* include numerous authors of the assigned lecture readings for this course, as well as heads of state, and leaders of preeminent non-governmental organizations. The purpose of these short articles is to unite the broad theoretical foundations laid by assigned course readings with more recent developments that have practical development policy implications or prescriptions. With a few exceptions, the *Project Syndicate* editorials we will read for precept have been published in the past year. **Please note: the first week of readings is optional.**

Precept 1 (February 14, 2023) — Topic: Major Themes in Development

Location: Chancellor Green 105

Times: 9:00 am - 9:50 am; 10:00 - 10:50 am.

1. Rodrik, Dani. “Development Economics Goes North.” *Project Syndicate*, 11 Apr. 2022, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/rich-countries-with-developing-country-problems-by-dani-rodrik-2022-04>.
2. Hausmann, Ricardo. “Why Industrial Policy Is Back.” *Project Syndicate*, 26 Jan. 2023, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/why-economists-have-rediscovered-industrial-policy-by-ricardo-hausmann-2023-01>.
3. Akufo-Addo, Nana, and Jakaya Kikwete. “Global Education Has Reached A Tipping Point.” *Project Syndicate*, 24 Jan. 2023, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/solving-historic-education-crisis-requires-increased-funding-by-nana-akufo-addo-and-jakaya-kikwete-2023-01>.
4. Hoyer, Werner, and Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. “Global Health Is The Best Investment We Can Make.” *Project Syndicate*, 22 Nov. 2022, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/global-health-set-back-by-recent-shocks-calls-for-investment-new-partnerships-by-werner-hoyer-and-tedros-adhanom-ghebreyesus-2022-11>.
5. Rao, Naveen, and Eloise Todd. “Climate Change Is Making Us Sick.” *Project Syndicate*, 14 Dec. 2022, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/climate-change-health-impact-cop27-failure-by-naveen-rao-and-elise-todd-2022-12>.
6. Arezki, Rabah. “The Multilateral Financing Paradox.” *Project Syndicate*, 25 Jan. 2023, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/multilateral-development-banks-financing-lower-income-countries-by-rabah-arezki-2023-01>.

Precept 2 (February 16, 2023) — Topic: South Korea

7. Lee, Jong-Wha. "Saving South Korea's Economy." *Project Syndicate*, 19 Nov. 2018, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/south-korea-economic-reform-north-c-operation-by-lee-jong-wha-2018-11>.
8. Lee, Keun. "What is South Korea's President-Elect Facing?" *Project Syndicate*, 19 Apr. 2022, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/south-korea-new-president-yoon-seok-young-economic-policy-plans-by-keun-lee-2022-04>.

Precept 3 (February 23, 2023) — Topic: China

9. Lee, Keun. "A Korean Trajectory for China?" *Project Syndicate*, 15 Dec. 2022, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/will-middle-class-chinese-follow-korea-democratization-path-by-keun-lee-2022-12>.
10. Zhang, Jun. "China's Saving Conundrum." *Project Syndicate*, 2 Feb. 2023, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/china-must-boost-consumer-spending-with-welfare-protection-by-zhang-jun-2023-02>.
11. Ang, Yuen Yuen. "Is China Back?" *Project Syndicate*, 17 Jan. 2023, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/china-economy-after-zero-covid-xi-top-down-model-still-a-problem-by-yuen-yuen-ang-2023-01>.

First Take-Home Assignment: February 24, 9:00 am to February 26, 9:00 pm.

Precept 4 (March 2, 2023) — Latin America

12. Goldfajn, Ilan, and Eduardo Levy Yeyati. "Latin America's Triple Policy Challenge." *Project Syndicate*, 30 Aug. 2022, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/latin-america-triple-policy-challenge-by-ilan-goldfajn-and-eduardo-l-yeyati-2022-08>.
13. Velasco, Andrés. "Latin America's Democracies Hold Strong." *Project Syndicate*, 21 Dec. 2022, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/latin-american-democracy-strong-peru-brazil-argentina-mexico-chile-by-andres-velasco-2022-12>.

Reading Guide Leader(s):

Precept 5 (March 9, 2023) — Topic: Brazil

14. Szabó, Ilona. "What Lula Must Do." *Project Syndicate*, 15 Nov. 2022, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/brazil-what-lula-must-do-by-ilona-szabo-2022-11>.
15. De Aragão, Thiago, and Otaviano Canuto. "Understanding Brazil's Insurrection." *Project Syndicate*, 11 Jan. 2023, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/brazil-insurrection-january-8-causes-and-implications-by-thiago-de-aragao-and-otaviano-canuto-2023-01>.

Reading Guide Leader(s):

Spring Break — No Precept (March 16, 2023)

Precept 6 (March 23, 2023) — Topic: India

16. Bardhan, Pranab, Brahma Chellaney, Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg, and Yi Fuxian. "PS Commentators Respond: Could the "Chinese Century" Belong to India?" *Project Syndicate*, 26 Jan. 2023, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/onpoint/ps-commentators-respond-could-the-chinese-century-belong-to-india>.
17. Bildt, Carl. "Can India Fulfill Its Potential?" *Project Syndicate*, 19 Dec. 2022, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/india-economic-rise-depends-on-opening-up-by-carl-bildt-2022-12>.

Reading Guide Leader(s):**Precept 7 (March 30, 2023) — Topic: Africa**

18. Signé, Landry. "A Year of Opportunity for Africa." *Project Syndicate*, 13 Jan. 2023, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/africa-2023-opportunities-economy-climate-change-by-landry-signé-2023-01>.
19. Boly, Safia, and Omid Kassiri. "How to Transform African Agriculture." *Project Syndicate*, 2 Feb. 2023, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/transforming-african-agriculture-climate-change-food-security-by-safia-boly-and-omid-kassiri-2023-02>.

Reading Guide Leader(s):**Second Take-Home Assignment: March 31, 9:00 am to April 2, 9:00 pm.****Precept 8 (April 6, 2023) — Topic: Nigeria**

20. Okonta, Ike. "Nigeria's Poverty-Powered Insurgency." *Project Syndicate*, 30 Apr. 2013, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/boko-haram-s-strengthening-position-in-nigeria-by-ike-okonta>.
21. Emmanuel, Ibitoye Segun. "Nigeria's Poisonous Patriarchy." *Project Syndicate*, 28 Jun 2019, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/toxic-masculinity-sustains-gender-based-violence-in-nigeria-by-ibitoye-segun-emmanuel-2019-06>.

Reading Guide Leader(s):**Precept 9 (April 13, 2023) — Topic: Democracy and Development**

22. Basu, Kaushik. "Protecting the Democratic Dividend." *Project Syndicate*, 28 Feb. 2022, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/democratic-dividend-creativity-economic-progress-by-kaushik-basu-2022-02>.
23. Lieberman, Evan. "The Promise of South African Democracy." *Project Syndicate*, 6 May 2022, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/south-africa-democracy-progress-since-apartheid-by-evan-lieberman-1-2022-05>.

Reading Guide Leader(s):**Precept 10 (April 20, 2023) — Globalization**

24. Leonard, Mark. "The Next Globalization." *Project Syndicate*, 25 Jan. 2023, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/next-globalization-multipolar-and-security-over-profits-by-mark-leonard-2023-01>.
25. Rodrik, Dani. "A Better Globalization Might Rise from Hyper-globalization's Ashes." *Project Syndicate*, 9 May 2022, <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/after-hyperglobalization-national-interests-open-economy-by-dani-rodrik-2022-05>.

Precept 11 (April 27, 2023) — Topic: Review**No Readings Assigned**

Final Assignment: The final assignment will be a 5-day take-home exam from April 28, 9:00 am to May 2, 9:00 pm.